



Michigan Dental Assistants Association
PO Box 118
Lennon, MI 48449

March 21, 2012

House Health Policy Committee
519 House Office Bldg.
Lansing, MI

Dear Committee Members,

Although the Michigan Dental Assistants Association (MDAA) recognizes the need of hygienists involved in PA 161 programs to have an assistant to help with certain procedures that may be difficult for a single hygienist to perform; we do not however, support HB 4718 as written and have forwarded our position to the MDHA. We are open to working with both MDHA and the MDA to utilize an assistant to improve care in such settings.

The MDAA will consider supporting a change to the Public Health Code which will allow RDAs to practice in a PA 161 program by granting them the same waiver that the hygienists currently have to practice without a licensed dentist on the premises and on those individuals who are not a patient of record. We would recommend those duties that are currently allowed under the assignment category for the RDA in the Administrative Rules. We will not support a hygienist supervising an RDA under the "second pair of hands" clause used in the Public Health Code and the Administrative Rules in any setting.

The MDAA will also consider supporting the hygienists' supervision of non-licensed dental assistants in a PA 161 program, however the Public Health Code will have to be changed to include the non-licensed dental assistant, define them and list their duties. They will have to register with the state Board of Dentistry and pay a fee, provide their contact information, and renew every three years with a renewal fee. They need to have a CPR and a CE requirement just like all other dental professionals and be accountable to the Board of Dentistry. The non-licensed dental assistant will be able to assist the hygienist with placing sealants, perform basic dental assisting functions and be able to take radiographs if they have passed a state-approved course after being granted a waiver to practice without a licensed dentist on the premises and on those individuals who are not a patient of record.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Kindel RDA, BA
MDAA Legislative Chair